GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5061
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2001
EXPORT OF SPICES
KAMBALAPADU E. KRISHNAMURTHY

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of chillies and other spices exported during the last two years from each State, spices-wise and year-wise;

(b) the decrease/increase spotted by the Government in the export of these spices during the above period;

(c) the reasons for decrease, if any identified in respect of export of chillies;

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the export of spices;

(e) the hurdles surfacing in the process of exports of spices especially in case of chillies;

(f) the measures taken by the Government in this regard; and
(g) its impact on the farm community?

Answer

MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) : State-wise data for export of spices is not maintained. Export of chillies and other spices during the last two years is given in the table below:-

Quantity in tonnes (Source: Spices Board)

Item	1999-2000 (Provisional)	2000-01 (April-Feb) (Estimated)
Pepper	42806	16050
Cardamom(S)	646	975
Cardamom(L)	1211	1345
Chilli	64776	52500
Ginger	8773	5830
Turmeric	35556	29000
Coriander	13973	11250
Cumin	6145	11300
Celery	3497	4650
Fennel	2953	3600
Fenugreek	10901	8850
Other seeds (1)	2349	2150
Garlic	8542	10750
Other spices (2)	22012	31000
Curry powder	5814	5450
Mint oil	2820	3275
Spice oils & oleoresins	3368	3175
Total	236142	201150

(b) : The export of spices has shown a marginal decline in terms of quantity during the last 2 years. However, the export of spices has

declined by around 6% in terms of quantity and 24% in terms of value during April-February, 2000-01, as compared to the corresponding period of previous year.

(c) : The export of chillies has declined on account of cheaper prices offered by Pakistan and presence of aflatoxin and pesticide residues in our exports.

(d) : Steps taken to increase export of spices include rationalisation of cess on export of spices; implementation of brand promotion schemes; product diversification; technology transfer, process upgradation and product development; developing organic spices and spice products; sending business delegations etc.

(e) : The major hurdles faced in the process of export of spices including chillies include inadequate supply of exportable varieties of spices; non competitive prices; inadequate investment in high tech processing and value addition; and inefficiency in meeting the changing quality requirements of the importing countries. In case of chillies, the major hurdles are presence of aflatoxin and pesticide residues and varietal mix-up.

(f) : The measures taken by Govt/ Spices Board in this regard include regular conduct of training programmes benefiting the growers, extension workers, traders, processors and exporters; improving the infrastructure in processing and grading as well as setting up in-house testing facilities; acquisition of technology for upgradation of processing and manufacturing methods. Besides, steps have been taken for improving post harvest handling facilities including necessary infrastructure like construction of drying yards, supply of polythene sheets etc.

(g) : The percentage share of export of spices including chillies out of the total production of spices in the country is quite small to make any substantial impact on the farming community. However, various steps taken by the Govt/ Spices Board for improving post harvest activities, processing and value addition have given an impetus to the farmers to attain higher level of quality leading to better realisation for their produce.